

A letter to the *Philadelphia Press*, from the Azores, tells this story: "Not long ago a Michaelse gentleman saw at the theatre a young and pretty donazeta, with whose charms he was at once smitten. The next night he managed to obtain the box next to hers, and as there is no separation between the tiers except a thin railing of sufficient height for a man to rest his arm upon when sitting, the proximity to his innamorata was anything but distant. It was the only place that he possibly might ever have, and there was no way to arrange for a better meeting: nothing was left but to take the present opportunity and make the most of it. So pulling off his cuff he wrote his proposal on it, detailing his prospects, position, love and other such things as might prove interesting. When written to suit, he quietly placed it as nearly before her as could be, and waited until his eyes could direct her to this tale of a shirt. She read, she smiled, she nodded, and the delighted swain knew that the mark drawn at a venture had told the mark.

Dr. Webster was a true scion of the old New England stock. Upon his mother's side he was a descendant of William Bradford, the Plymouth Governor. The clever boys of New England families were then sent to college, and Noah Webster naturally entered Yale College in 1774. His studies were somewhat interrupted by the revolution, but he succeeded in graduating. Afterward he taught school and studied law, being admitted to the bar in 1781. In 1782 he kept a classical school at Goshen, N. Y., and there "compiled two small elementary books for teaching the English language." In 1783 he published his "First Part of a Grammatical Institute of the English Language," followed in the course of the next two years by the second and third parts. The first part was the basis of the spelling-books which he afterward published. He had an idea that Americans should have school books of their own, and he based his compilations upon this. He adhered to this when he published his reader, and many of the selections are from American writers and orators. His books were popular enough to make him feel the need of a copyright law, and to secure this by the legislation of the several States he studied assiduously. Congress under the confederation having no power to protect literary property. It did not enact a copyright law until 1790. The spelling-book, as everybody knows, was enormously successful. In 1847 24,000,000 copies of the book had been published, the sales averaging 1,000,000 per annum. Upon this Dr. Webster received a copyright premium of five mills a copy, and it was the profits arising from this book which, during the twenty years in which Dr. Webster was engaged upon the "American Dictionary," supported him and his family.—*New York Tribune*.

The shooting of "the last Vermont panther," in the woods of Barnard (Windsor Co.), by Farmer Crowell, recalled the exciting panther stories of our old colonial forest literature. A local paper says: Stories are rife in this section of other wild beasts of this species being seen in Mendon, Bolton, and also near Barnard, but it is probable that this mammoth catamount is the last of the former here in the State. The dead animal is unquestionably native to Vermont, as the catamount race roamed the forest in large numbers in early times.

Three panthers have been shot in the State within the memory of the oldest inhabitants—one in 1830 at Roxbury, one near Ascutney Mountain in 1887 (which is at Downer's Hotel in Reading), and a third in Lamolite County in 1869.

A panther was seen and pursued by a party of hunters near Ascutneyville three years since, and was probably the same one shot at Barnard. It was also seen by two section men to cross the Central Vermont track in Hartford a month since.

During the past season farmers in Windsor county have lost nearly two hundred sheep by some prowling beast, which, no doubt, was this panther. A description of the animal was sent to P. T. Barnum at the time the shooting occurred; and the great showman in response said that it was the largest panther ever seen or captured in America. He further stated that there were only two live specimens on exhibition in America. The Barnard panther is esteemed so much of a curiosity that its present owner (or rather the owner of its nicely-stuffed skin) has been offered fifteen hundred dollars for it, and it is proposed that the fierce-looking relic be placed in the State House Cabinet at Montpelier.

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